

(oral vaccine), and by local spraying of the upper respiratory tract.

"Decisive evidence of the value of any vaccine is not forthcoming, and the weight of careful studies clearly indicates that none of the vaccines now available when administered by the routes advised have proved of value," the report said.

"Vaccines for colds can not be recommended for routine administration to industrial groups or to individuals."

Correction.—In the In Memoriam column of the November issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on page 266, the Executive Secretary's clerk who has charge of listings of deceased members of the California Medical Association, inserted the name of William E. Waddell. This was an error. Dr. William E. Waddell of Los Angeles is still active in professional work.

Medical Test for All Argentine Citizens.—A new government decree requiring periodic medical examination for all Argentines was announced by the Argentine Government on December 3.

Wisconsin Vitamin Patents Held Invalid by U. S. Court.—The valuable Steenbock patents for food irradiation, held by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, were for the second time held invalid on November 24 by the Ninth Federal Circuit Court of Appeals. Winner by the decision is Vitamin Technologists, Inc., a Los Angeles concern.

This time the court described the patent—which has been netting the Wisconsin Foundation nearly a million dollars a year for scientific research—as a "profit-controlled monopoly barrier."

Judge William Denman, who wrote this opinion, said: "The evidence and appellee's brief are replete with well-verified statements of the great boon to humanity of Dr. Steenbock's scientific discoveries for the prevention and cure of rickets. The truth of such statements make stronger the contention that it is a public offense to withhold such processes from any of the principal foods of the rachitic poor."

The court did not invalidate the patent on the ground of public interest, however, but mainly on the premise that the principle of improving certain food substances by exposing them to ultraviolet rays, from sun or lamp, was not a new one.

New Hospital at Lynwood in Los Angeles County.—Construction of the new \$600,000 St. Francis Hospital at Imperial and Century Boulevards started on November 21, according to Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. O'Dwyer, director of the Catholic Charities, sponsors of the project.

No definite completion date has been set, but it is hoped by Msgr. O'Dwyer that formal dedication services can be held on or before July 1.

The initial structure will provide for 100 beds, but construction of a maternity wing and facilities for additional general wards are already contemplated.

It is pointed out by Msgr. O'Dwyer that at least 500 more hospital beds are needed in this area to bring it up to the national average. Acuteness of the local hospital situation, he said, prompted Congress to appropriate \$400,000 of Lanham Act funds for the structure. An additional \$200,000 for fixtures, equipment and furnishings is being raised here and in surrounding communities by public subscription.

The new hospital will be equipped with the latest clinical laboratory and surgical innovations and its facilities will be available to all, regardless of race or creed.

California 1950 Population May Be Second Largest.

—California is looking forward to the privileges—and headaches—connected with becoming the State with the second largest population in the country.

Governor Warren has put it this way:

"California has passed Ohio and Illinois to rank third among States in population. With the postwar industrial and construction program now being formulated, we should overcome Pennsylvania's lead of about 1,000,000 by 1950."

Colonel Alexander Heron, state director of reconstruction and reemployment, also looking six years ahead, says:

"California will retain all but one-fourth or one-fifth of its wartime migrants and will have a population of 8,500,000 to 9,000,000 by 1950."

A general study of the population status, supervised by Colonel Heron, says:

"Between April, 1940, and January, 1944, the war transformed our State. In that three and a half year period, California acquired factories and plants turning out untold quantities of war materials, was crossed and recrossed by countless transient military and civilian personnel on urgent war business, served as a jumping off place for men and materials for one of the great war efforts, and harbored military installations of unprecedented magnitude.

"In the process, the State acquired an extra million and a half people who had not lived here before, a jump from slightly under 7,000,000 to almost 8,500,000. Of these, 1,320,000 were migrants from other States who came to work in the war industries or for other reasons moved to California. The rest were babies born here.

"The two increases, 'natural' increase and increase by migration, broke a number of records. They constituted the greatest numerical increase of any State for the same period. California by-passed Ohio and Illinois to become the third most populous state in the union, exceeded only by New York and Pennsylvania. And in the single year 1943 the rate of population growth—600,000 per year—was the most phenomenal ever recorded by any one of the United States."

Doctors Assert Vitamin Tests Prove Negative.

Physicians who conducted a 30-day vitamin-feeding experiment with 200 persons, at the Army's request, on November 23 reported the "administration of vitamin supplements to a group of apparently normal persons, consuming the usual American diet, had no demonstrable beneficial effect."

The study was made at Duke University School of Medicine at the request of the quartermaster general's office.

The authors, Dr. Julian M. Ruffin and Dr. David Cayer of Durham, N. C., said:

"At present the use of vitamins is widespread throughout the country, not only in the treatment of disease, but also by apparently normal persons.

"While no one would question the employment of vitamin therapy in frank deficiency disease, or even in suspected deficiency states, still one wonders if the indiscriminate use of vitamins, sold over the counter to people who have no obvious disease, is justified.

"It has been implied that, even when no demonstrable deficiency exists, one's sense of well being and ability to perform work can be improved greatly by the addition of vitamins to the diet.

"As pointed out by the Council on Food and Nutrition and on Industrial Health (of the American Medical Association) there is at present no conclusive evidence to substantiate this point of view."